

# Foster Parents and Caregivers

Changing Lives One Child at a Time

December 2006



**"We cannot always build a future for our youth,  
but we can build our youth for the future."**

*— Franklin D. Roosevelt*

**For all you who put in the hard work in the lives of children in your care, we say thank you.**

## KIRO Holiday Magic

DSHS and KIRO News radio 710 have been partners since 1988 in the yearly KIRO Kids Holiday Magic Program. This program provides foster children throughout Western Washington with toys and gifts at Christmas time. DSHS provides the wish lists of the children, and KIRO holds a radio telethon to solicit gifts or money from its listeners to support the program. DSHS then coordinates delivery of the gifts to local offices so they can be matched with the appropriate children. All children are identified by code numbers so that privacy is preserved. For more information and to sign your foster child up for a gift contact the social worker assigned to the child in your care.

## Washington Celebrates National Adoption Month 2006

Twelve counties around the state held special events to commemorate National Adoption Month, finalizing 139 adoptions during the month of November. The children adopted were children residing in foster care and relative care and some private adoptions. Counties that participated this year were: Benton/Franklin, Chelan, Clark, Cowlitz, Island/San Juan, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, and Whatcom. Many of the counties had press coverage for the events. For those with internet access, you can go to the links below to read more about local adoption events.

### **Kitsap Sun:**

[http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN\\_19088\\_5154125,00.html](http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN_19088_5154125,00.html)

### **News Tribune (front page on Saturday):**

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/story/6239120p-5447644c.html>

### **Yakima Herald-Republic (front page on Saturday):**

<http://www.yakimaherald-republic.com/page/dis/287526788155816>

### **King County Journal (Friday):**

<http://www.kingcountyjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061117/NEWS/611170352>

### **Everett Herald:**

[http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/11/12/100opi\\_minor001.cfm](http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/11/12/100opi_minor001.cfm)

[http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/11/20/100loc\\_a1adopt001.cfm](http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/11/20/100loc_a1adopt001.cfm)

### **The Olympian:**

<http://www.theolympian.com/112/story/50977.html>

### **Longview Daily News (Sunday's front page article):**

[http://www.tdn.com/articles/2006/11/19/this\\_day/news04.txt](http://www.tdn.com/articles/2006/11/19/this_day/news04.txt)

## Holidays From School, Employment and Routines: How to Help the Child in Your Care During This Special Time

Most everyone looks forward to the breaks from school, employment and routines that come around this time of year. With the disruptions in everyday life that holidays bring, the parent-child visit may bring added stresses, emotions and behaviors for the caregiver to face. Visits are often changed or arrangements made for special times and locations.

### Some ideas on how to help the child through the holidays:

- Talk with the child about holiday traditions in their parent's home and yours. Are there special foods, stories, gifts, etc.
- Talk with the social worker and parents, if appropriate, about how holiday traditions might be incorporated into the parent-child-sibling visit.
- Talk with the social worker in advance to discuss any special visits that are planned making sure of dates, times and locations if different than the usual plan.
- Check with the social worker about the parents' and/or siblings' participation in any special holiday or cultural activities at school, day care, etc.
- Provide pictures of the child to the parent, if appropriate.
- Recognize the child may have strong feelings and emotions around the holidays

## Important Numbers

### Important numbers to know when you take care of children in out of home:

Support for foster parents under investigation for allegations of abuse or neglect: **Foster Parent Investigation Retention Support Team (FIRST)** 1-253-219-6782. Monday – Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., or leave a message and receive a return call within 24 hours.

Statewide information about receiving **foster parent support**: Call 1-800-760-5340, Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 5:00 p.m. or leave a message. Receive a return call by the next business day.

General foster parent information for the state of Washington/FPAWS: **Foster Parent Association of Washington State**, 1-800-391-CARE (2273) or [www.fpaws.org](http://www.fpaws.org). FPAWS is seeking new members and supporting foster parents in many ways, including referrals to local associations.

**Family Help Line**: 1-800-932-HOPE or [www.parenttrust.org](http://www.parenttrust.org). The Family Help Line is a free, statewide training and referral line for the families of Washington State. Last year, the Family Help Line received over 5,000 calls and requests for information. Calls can last up to 90 minutes and parents can call as often as needed.

**Foster Parent and Caregiver Crisis and Support Line**: 1-800-301-1868.

**Mental Health Crisis Line Information**: The crisis line telephone number for your county or region is available on the DSHS Mental Health Division website at: <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth/crisis.shtml>

### Children's Administration Foster Parent Website and Foster Parent Training Website:

For information about foster parent and caregiver training <http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/training.asp>

### Children's Administration Foster Care Listserv:

Join the 400 people who have subscribed to the List Serve <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=fosterparents&&A=1>

The list serve provides over 400 subscribers with information regarding new resources for the work you do in caring for children, information on parenting and resources to support you and the children in your care.